



Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
785.220.5211 | Randy@Kansasag.org

January 30, 2024

To: House Committee on Agriculture
From: Randy Stookey, Senior Vice President & General Counsel, KGFA, KARA
Re: **Proponent Joint Testimony for HB 2477, amending the agricultural chemical remediation reimbursement program**

Chairman Rahjes and members of the committee on agriculture, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2477. This testimony is submitted jointly on behalf of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA) and the Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association (KARA).

KGFA is the state association of the grain receiving, storage, processing, and shipping industry in Kansas. KGFA's membership includes over 950 Kansas business locations and represents 99% of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state. KARA is an agribusiness industry trade association whose membership includes over 700 companies across Kansas. Our associations appear in support of this bill which seeks to amend the agricultural and specialty chemical remediation act.

Passed into law in 2000, the act created the remediation reimbursement program, and remediation fund, which provide for financial reimbursement to eligible persons for expenses incurred during the performance of agricultural chemical remediation, as directed by the Kansas department of health and environment.

The remediation fund receives no money from the state general fund and is completely financed by assessments on commercial grain warehouses, agricultural chemical registrants, custom fertilizer blenders, commercial fertilizer registrants, and pesticide dealers. KGFA and KARA strongly support the purpose of this fund which serves the agribusiness industry for otherwise non-insurable remediation expenses.

For more than 23 years, this program has proven to be instrumental in advancing Kansas' public policy of protecting and remediating the soil and ground water of our state. The program is beneficial and appreciated by the agribusiness industry, as well as state and federal regulators.

Under the program, eligible parties can receive reimbursement for up to \$200,000 per facility. The fund currently has an outstanding balance of over \$1 million. As the costs of remediation projects have increased over the last 23 years, the \$200,000 maximum reimbursement per site does not provide the benefit it did twenty years ago. For that reason, KGFA and KARA industry members are seeking to increase the maximum reimbursement from \$200,000 to \$300,000.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2477. We would respectfully request that the committee pass the bill out favorably and would stand for questions at the appropriate time.